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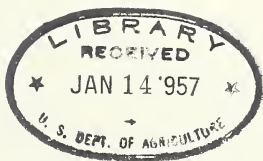


BOOK NUMBER

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A BRIEF DIGEST OF PROCEEDINGS
OF
EXTENSION AND 4-H KINDRED GROUP
AT THE
AMERICAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 16, 1956
DETROIT, MICHIGAN



Chairman: Arden Peterson
Recreation Specialist
4-H Club Department
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan



OBJECTIVES OF 4-H CAMPING

Dr. Paul Miller

Director Miller divided his presentation into four main areas:

1. Camping, a "rite of passage"
2. Camping, a group dimension
3. Camping in relation to the personal dimension
4. Relation of 4-H camping to the age of automation

Camping, a "rite of passage":

Expectations and anticipations of change in the routine of life of the boy and girl. Camping provides for a 4-H member this change in a moment, or in a period such as a day. Accordingly, the brief but concentrated period of the camping experience is not only long remembered, but may be a decisive impression and factor in personal growth. New experiences are many in a camp schedule.

Camping as a group dimension:

Extension work is democracy-tending. Camping in its own unique way provides group experiences where the will of the majority, respecting the views of each individual becomes very real. Learning to live and work with others away from the direct influence of parents is a real contribution to the life of a boy and girl. Seeing how rules get manufactured and carried out is a valuable experience.

4-H Camping in relation to the personal dimension:

Here is an opportunity for an individual to get a picture of himself as he really is when he can be his genuine self. He is not necessarily copying anyone's patterns of behavior. He can observe the plight of the non-conformist and where each person's attitude takes him into a group situation. Similar climates prevail in real life that are faced in a camp atmosphere.

Relation of camping to age of automation:

Do young people in this age of machinery and gadgets, when even much recreation is mass produced, grow to an understanding of how to develop their own recreational opportunities? Under the leadership of able camp staff people, including extension agents, youth work out their own program of fun and enjoyment in camp. Such an experience is most valuable as it helps them in real life to appreciate the wholesome simpler means for enjoyment and fun. The proper use of natural resources is a real contribution that camp can make in educating the boy and girl.

During the concluding discussion, Director Miller answered many questions. A concluding statement reflecting his thinking on the 4-H Camp program and what should be included follows:

"Any 4-H program director who includes in his program schedule 4-H project material which should be taught in the local 4-H club, is scraping the bottom of the barrel of imagination."

February 15, 8:00 p.m.

Panel Discussion: Moderator John Lennox - New York
 Paul Thayer - New York
 Herb Cilley - New York
 Leona Washburn - Michigan
 Tynni Hummel - Ohio
 James Halm - Michigan

Introductory comments by John Lennox brought out a question which camping people frequently ask: Is 4-H camping really camping? The answer depends on what is in the program. Programs were defined to include staff, choices of activities for campers, director counsellor relationships, meals, registrations etc. For this evening however, it was hoped that discussion could be limited to the daily schedule how it is planned, what goes into it and how it fits the needs of campers.

A few comments brought out by panel members which were significant:

Mrs. Hummel - Ohio

- A. Crafts selected by a camp corporation - counsellors are trained in these. Two counties conduct camp together.
- B. Camp Counsellors are all 4-H Junior Leaders - they are trained at a counsellor training session prior to opening of camp.
- C. During camp frequent counsellor meetings are held at camp.

James Halm - Michigan

- A. 4-H Council helps plan camp schedule.
- B. Craft instructors and counsellors who volunteer, plus several previous years older campers help plan program. Campers are provided choices of activities.
- C. Counsellors do not stay in cabin with campers at night.
- D. Two three day sessions. Objective of these sessions "to provide a growing experience for 4-H Club members."

Herb Cilley - New York

- A. Camp organized on a district basis including several counties. 4-H members and parents elect the time they wish to attend. Counties do not hold separate camps as such.
- B. 4-H members can elect to attend for more than one week. Have a variety of activity choices.
- C. Opportunities for pioneer camping with well qualified and trained counsellors.
- D. Counsellors meet often during camp. Training program a continuous one. Counsellors live eat and sleep with assigned campers.
- E. Has a camp counsellors handbook available to all counsellors.

Leona Washburn - Michigan

- A. At a fall youth leadership camp involving many who served on the camp staff. An opportunity is provided to evaluate and review the summers' camp.
- B. In spring those who attended youth leadership camp are given opportunity to volunteer as counsellors. A program planning meeting involving these youth provides an opportunity for setting up flexible daily schedules and suggestions for special emphasis and classes.
- C. Camp counsellors come to camp a day early for orientation - meet each day to discuss problems etc.
- D. Campers given choices of activities outside of special classes mentioned above. A camp council is elected by campers to advise staff and set up traditions and rules.

Paul Thayer - New York

- A. Campers come for one, two or three weeks to district camp involving several counties.
- B. Twelve or thirteen craft activities provides a wide choice. Ideas for camp program are solicited from previous years counsellors and extension agents. Making the program is a continuous process, even during camp.
- C. Counsellors are trained in pre-camp session. The camp director evaluates each counsellor. Senior counsellors are paid a nominal sum. Junior counsellors with little experience receive board and room and meet often with the director.
- D. Senior counsellors are responsible for a program phase such as an evening campfire program. They plan this with their tribe.

After this panel presentation, John Lennox brought out several important points from the members of the audience which culminated in an expression that all 4-H camp program content needs to be gone over carefully with suggestions of previous campers and counsellors given adequate considerations. Choices should be provided campers, but in a quantity small enough to avoid confusions. A maximum use of the "out of doors" is essential.

February 16 - 10:00 a.m.

Standard for 4-H Camping - Dr. Ray Carlson

None was better able to present "words of wisdom" to those in 4-H Clubs whether we had many years of experience in camping or just finding out things for the first time than Ray Carlson.

How camp standards came about, what they are and how they fit certain groups was brought out forcefully. He recognized that short term camps such as 4-H do not always fit the standards set up for other camps. However, it is worthwhile to know and understand what we need for a good safe camping experience for our boys and girls.

"By participating in a program such as the American Camping Association on a state, sectional, or national level offers, we can help raise the standards of 4-H Camping", was his final advice to those present.

In the final open discussion perhaps most striking and thought provoking was the question: Is 4-H camping really camping or isn't there a need to differentiate between conferences and camps?

Those present unanimously approved the following resolution:

Resolved that a similar 4-H Clubs and Extension Kindred Group Meeting be conducted at the ACA Convention in Minneapolis in 1958 if an invitation is directed to us from the ACA. Be it also resolved that a representative of the Federal 4-H Extension Staff be urged to attend in the person of Miss Fern Shipley or other designated individual.

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ROSTER OF THOSE PRESENT

NAME

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Paul Miller	Dept. of Recreation, Indiana University
Ray Carlson	Bloomington, Indiana

